

16 March 2004

Update on Deca-BDE Flame Retardant EU Scientific Assessment – March 2004

Industry is encouraged by the 11th March EU Technical Committee meeting's confirmation that all completed human health exposure scenarios indicate no further risk reduction measures are necessary for Deca-BDE. Last December, the EU Technical Committee meeting drew similar conclusions for all completed environment exposure scenarios for Deca-BDE.

In addressing one final question of possible neurobehavioral effects of Deca-BDE, it was deemed that a Swedish study was "not appropriate" for drawing any conclusions and that further data was needed. The EU Technical Committee consequently requested the industry to carry out a further study in this area. EBFRIP will be working in the coming months with the EU authorities to determine the type of study required to get definitive answers.

EBFRIP welcomes the Technical Committee's proposal for an ongoing biomonitoring program since it is consistent with the industry's existing product stewardship program. Based on existing data, biomonitoring will be able to provide continuing reassurance that any exposure to Deca-BDE will remain well below any level of concern. Indeed, the updated health report on Deca-BDE submitted by the French Rapporteur takes into account recent studies on human exposure -such as the recent WWF study- and confirms Deca-BDE's lack of risk to human health.

Deca-BDE is critical for providing certain materials with the necessary fire resistance to meet fire safety standards, which save hundreds of lives and prevent thousands of injuries each year across the European Union. After 10 years of EU scientific assessment, there is considerable evidence to indicate that Deca-BDE's benefits outweigh any identified risk and that it can continue to be used with confidence.

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